(c) what are the rules regarding allotment of lockers to customers by branches of nationalised banks and whether they are on uniform basis; if not, reasons for disparity and action contemplated to implement uniform rules in this regard to avoid harassment to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Oriental Bank of Commerce have recently increased the locker rent by Rs. 50/- per annum, after a period of six years. This has been done to meet the increased cost of operations and investments in locker cabinets. The increased rent is applicable to lockers given to new customers. For existing customers increased rent will be payable at the time of payment of annual rent. The bank has also reported that customers in Faridabad have been asked to increase their security deposit so that interest earned on deposit is equivalent to the annual rent payable for the lockers.

As regards other nationalised banks, it may be mentioned that rates of locker rent vary from bank to bank and depend upon the size of the locker, capital cost incurred on installation, expenditure on maintenance, etc. The locker facility is not a normal banking operation and is provided to customers by banks on lease basis subject to availability and feasibility.

(c) In the matter of allotment of lockers, public sector banks are governed by guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The said guidelines *inter-alia* provide that at least 80 per cent of lockers should be allotted by banks of first-come-first-served basis and remaining 20 per cent on business considerations. There is no objection to the banks seeking deposits from the locker holders to cover annual rent of the lockers from the interest on deposits.

Promotion/postings in Unit Trust of India

2665. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for promotion/posting in the Unit Trust of India;

(b) whether there is any discrimination between male and female employees in the matter of transfer on promotion, if so, the details therefore; and

(c) the number of employees promoted during the last three years and whether they were transferred on promotion and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The norms for promotion/posting in the Unit Trust of India (UTI) are based mainly on minimum years of service, performance report, written test and interview in accordance with the policy approved by its Board.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During the last three years, 230 employees were promoted out of which 23 were transferred as per UTI's requirements.

Tax evasion by Auto Parts Dealers

2666. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shopowners dealing in auto parts in the Mangolpuri area, Delhi are not paying any Income Tax, Sales Tax, etc. to the authorities;

(b) whether Government propose to enquire the matter through CBI; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) A large number of them are paying